

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY AF/P: BRUSSELL:PCM
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R 112206Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANJUL
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING MAY 11, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

RE CONSULTATION WITH SOVIETS IN HELSINKI ON LIMITING TRANSFERS OF CONVENTION ARMS:

Q. FINALLY, THE BIGGEST ARMS TRANSFER IN THE LAST YEAR OR SO I THINK HAS BEEN THE SOVIET TRANSFER OF ARMS TO ETHIOPIA. CAN ONE ALSO TAKE IT THAT THIS WAS RAISED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE?

A. AGAIN I AM NOT GOING TO ITEMIZE EVERYTHING THAT WAS RAISED. I WOULD SIMPLY NOTE THAT OBVIOUSLY IN DISCUSSING OUR RATIONALE FOR OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICIES ANY NUMBER OF SUBJECTS WOULD CLEARLY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT WE SPECIFICALLY TALKED ABOUT.

Q. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM MET LAST EVENING WITH THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA ABOUT THE VISIT OF ANOTHER OFFICIAL TO IOWA. COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT THE PRECISE OUTCOME OF THAT WAS AND WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN A FURTHER RESPONSE FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS?

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A. YES. IN A DISCUSSION YESTERDAY EVENING WITH MINISTER RETIEF OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM MADE CLEAR OUR CONCERN OVER STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO MR. VAN ROOYEN OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY. HE SAID THAT IF ACCURATELY QUOTED, THESE STATEMENTS REPRESENTED AN UNWARRANTED INTRUSION INTO A DOMESTIC POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. MR. RETIEF RESPONDED THAT HE TOOK NOTE OF WHAT MR. NEWSOM HAS SAID AND WOULD CONVEY IT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. THE INCIDENT INVOLVES REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO MR. VAN ROOYEN DURING A RECENT VISIT TO IOWA. THEY WERE REMARKS THAT CAUSED SOME CONCERN TO SENATOR DICK CLARK OF IOWA. WE HAVE MADE THOSE CONCERNS CLEAR.

Q. YOU HAVE RECEIVED NO FURTHER RESPONSE?

A. NO. WE HAVE NO RESPONSE .

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